

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 2 1. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount in a
lottery game for a plurality of players, comprising:
- 4 accepting an entry from each of the plurality of players for an occurrence of
the lottery game, each entry comprising a first subset of numbers selected from a
6 predetermined range of numbers;
- determining an outcome for the occurrence of the lottery game, the outcome
8 for the occurrence of the lottery game comprising a second subset of numbers selected
from the predetermined range of numbers;
- 10 comparing the first subset of numbers for each of the entries to the second
subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game;
- 12 determining the number of matched numbers for each entry between the first
subset of numbers for the entry and the second subset of numbers for the outcome of
14 the lottery game based on the comparison of the first subset of numbers for each entry
to the second subset of number for the outcome of the lottery game;
- 16 determining that none of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game
match every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding
18 one of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery
game; and
- 20 awarding a share of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to at least a
portion of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game wherein none of the
22 numbers of the first subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the
second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game.
- 24
2. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 1, comprising awarding a share of the at least a portion of the
jackpot amount to each of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game wherein
4 none of the numbers of the first subset of numbers of the entry match any of the
numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game.
3. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 1, comprising:

determining the difference between each number of the first subset of numbers
4 and a corresponding one of the numbers of the second subset of numbers for the
outcome of the lottery game for each entry wherein none of the numbers of the first
6 subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the second subset of
numbers for the outcome of the lottery game; and
8 awarding a share of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to each of the
entries for the occurrence of the lottery game wherein none of the numbers of the first
10 subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the second subset of
numbers for the outcome of the lottery game and the difference between each number
12 of the first subset of numbers of the entry and the corresponding one of numbers of
the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game is equal.

4. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 1, comprising:

 selecting a third subset of numbers from the predetermined range of numbers;
4 comparing the first subset of numbers to the third subset of numbers for each
of the entries wherein none of the numbers of the first subset of numbers of the entry
6 match any of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the
lottery game;

8 awarding a share of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to each of the
entries for the occurrence of the lottery game wherein none of the numbers of the first
10 subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the second subset of
number for the outcome of the lottery game and none of the numbers of the first
12 subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the third subset of
numbers for the outcome of the lottery game.

5. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 4, wherein none of the numbers in the third subset of numbers are
also in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game.

6. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 1, comprising:

 determining that the jackpot amount is greater than a predetermined maximum
4 jackpot payout amount; and

awarding shares of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to entries
6 matching fewer than all of the numbers of the first subset of numbers to numbers of
the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the occurrence of the lottery game
8 where the jackpot amount is determined to be greater than the predetermined
maximum jackpot payout amount.

7. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 6, comprising awarding a share of the portion of the jackpot
amount greater than the predetermined maximum jackpot amount to at least a portion
4 of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game wherein none of the numbers of
the first subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the second subset
6 of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game.

8. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount in a
2 lottery game for a plurality of players, comprising:

accepting an entry from each of the plurality of players for an occurrence of
4 the lottery game, each entry comprising a first subset of numbers selected from a
predetermined range of numbers;

6 determining an outcome for the occurrence of the lottery game, the outcome
for the occurrence of the lottery game comprising a second subset of numbers selected
8 from the predetermined range of numbers;

comparing the first subset of numbers for each of the entries to the second
10 subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game;

determining the number of matched numbers for each entry between the first
12 subset of numbers for the entry and the second subset of numbers for the outcome of
the lottery game based on the comparison of the first subset of numbers for each entry
14 to the second subset of number for the outcome of the lottery game;

determining that none of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game
16 match every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding
one of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery
18 game;

randomly selecting a number from the range of zero to one less than the
20 maximum number of numbers in the first subset of numbers; and

awarding a share of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to each entry
22 having the same number of numbers from the corresponding first set of numbers
matching numbers from the second subset of numbers for the occurrence of the lottery
24 game as the randomly selected number from the range of zero to one less than the
maximum number of numbers in the first subset of numbers.

9. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 8, comprising:
providing a random selection mechanism having indicia disposed thereon
4 corresponding to the numbers from the range of zero to one less than the maximum
number of numbers in the first subset of numbers;
6 randomly selecting one of the indicia of the random selection mechanism; and
awarding a share of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to each entry
8 having the same number of numbers from the corresponding first set of numbers
matching numbers from the second subset of numbers for the occurrence of the lottery
10 game as the number from the range of zero to one less than the maximum number of
numbers in the first subset of numbers corresponding to the randomly selected indicia.

10. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 8, wherein randomly selecting comprises randomly selecting one
of a number from the range of zero to one less than the maximum number of numbers
4 in the first subset of numbers and a roll over indicator, the method comprising:
awarding a share of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to each entry
6 having the same number of numbers from the corresponding first set of numbers
matching numbers from the second subset of numbers for the occurrence of the lottery
8 game as the randomly selected number from the range of zero to one less than the
maximum number of numbers in the first subset of numbers where the roll over
10 indicator is not selected; and
retaining the jackpot amount for subsequent occurrences of the lottery game
12 where the roll over indicator is selected.

11. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 8, comprising:

determining that the jackpot amount is greater than a predetermined maximum
4 jackpot payout amount; and
 awarding shares of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to entries
6 matching fewer than all of the numbers of the first subset of numbers to numbers of
 the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the occurrence of the lottery game
8 where the jackpot amount is determined to be greater than the predetermined
 maximum jackpot payout amount.

12. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 11, comprising awarding a share of the portion of the jackpot
 amount greater than the predetermined maximum jackpot amount to at least a portion
4 of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game wherein none of the numbers of
 the first subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the second subset
6 of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game.

13. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount in a
2 lottery game for a plurality of players, comprising:
 dividing the jackpot amount into a base jackpot amount and a bonus jackpot
4 amount;
 accepting an entry from each of the plurality of players for an occurrence of
6 the lottery game, each entry comprising a first subset of numbers selected from a
 predetermined range of numbers;
8 determining an outcome for the occurrence of the lottery game, the outcome
 for the occurrence of the lottery game comprising a second subset of numbers selected
10 from the predetermined range of numbers;
 comparing the first subset of numbers for each of the entries to the second
12 subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game;
 determining the number of matched numbers for each entry between the first
14 subset of numbers for the entry and the second subset of numbers for the outcome of
 the lottery game based on the comparison of the first subset of numbers for each entry
16 to the second subset of number for the outcome of the lottery game;
 determining that at least one of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery
18 game matched every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a

corresponding one of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of
20 the lottery game;
randomly selecting a percentage from the range of zero percent to one hundred
22 percent;
awarding a share of the base jackpot amount to each entry matching every
24 number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding one of the
numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game;
26 determining a bonus jackpot payout amount by multiplying the bonus jackpot
amount by the randomly selected percentage; and
28 awarding a share of the bonus jackpot payout amount to each entry matching
every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding one of the
30 numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game.

14. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 13, comprising retaining the portion of the bonus jackpot amount
in excess of the bonus jackpot payout amount for subsequent occurrences of the
4 lottery game.

15. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount
2 according to claim 13, comprising:
providing a random selection mechanism having indicia disposed thereon
4 corresponding to at least two percentages from the range of zero percent to one
hundred percent;
6 randomly selecting one of the indicia of the random selection mechanism; and
determining the bonus jackpot payout amount by multiplying the bonus
8 jackpot amount by the percentage corresponding to the randomly selected indicia.

16. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount in a
2 lottery game for a plurality of players, comprising:
dividing the jackpot amount into a plurality of partial jackpot amounts;
4 accepting an entry from each of the plurality of players for an occurrence of
the lottery game;
6 determining an outcome for the occurrence of the lottery game;
comparing each of the entries to the outcome of the lottery game;

8 determining whether each entry is a winning entry for the occurrence of the
lottery game based on the comparison of the entry to the outcome of the lottery game;
10 determining that at least one of the entries is a winning entry of an award of at
least a portion of the jackpot amount;
12 randomly selecting a first percentage from the range of zero percent to one
hundred percent;
14 awarding a share of a first one of the partial jackpot amounts to each winning
entry of the award of at least a portion of the jackpot amount;
16 determining a first bonus jackpot payout amount by multiplying a second one
of the partial jackpot amounts by the randomly selected first percentage; and
18 awarding a share of the first bonus jackpot payout amount to each entry
winning entry of the award of at least a portion of the jackpot amount.

17. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount in a
2 lottery game for a plurality of players according to claim 16, comprising:
 determining a second bonus jackpot payout amount by multiplying a third one
4 of the partial jackpot amounts by the randomly selected first percentage; and
 awarding a share of the second bonus jackpot payout amount to each entry
6 winning entry of the award of at least a portion of the jackpot amount.

18. A method for awarding at least a portion of a jackpot amount in a
2 lottery game for a plurality of players according to claim 16, comprising:
 randomly selecting a second percentage from the range of zero percent to one
4 hundred percent;
 determining a second bonus jackpot payout amount by multiplying a third one
6 of the partial jackpot amounts by the randomly selected second percentage; and
 awarding a share of the second bonus jackpot payout amount to each entry
8 winning entry of the award of at least a portion of the jackpot amount.